



Criminalising Dissent

UNDER THE new Terrorism Bill currently going through Parliament the definition of terrorism will be changed to include acts for a political or ideological purpose involving "serious violence" to property, or which "endangers the life of any person."

This clause could include the actions of G.M. crops destroyers, or the Trident Ploughshares sabotaging nuclear weapons causing tens of thousands of pounds worth of damage. It could be also used to apply to anti-road actions: it has been alleged that tunnel fortifications can endanger the occupants and the people ejecting them. (Similar legal moves are underway in Finland & elsewhere)

Under the new bill groups concerned with "terrorism" activity may be banned by order of the Home Secretary. This would make it illegal to be a member of such a group, to wear clothing or carry any item which arouses suspicion of supporting the group, raise funds for, or promote the group.

It will not be even necessary to have committed an offence to be affected by this bill! If there is reasonable suspicion of you having committed a terrorist offence, you can be detained for up to 7 days, and denied access to a solicitor for up to 48 hours.

An "April Fool's Day Parade" will make a mockery of the bill in Manchester, at Queen Victoria Statue, Piccadilly Gardens on 1st April, 1pm; and on 30 April an anti bill action will see people gathering, dressed for direct action, to be photographed at Highbury Fields, London N5 for 2pm (0161 226 6814; teaparty@nematode.freeserve.co.uk for both). In Brighton a temporary community centre was opened to highlight this oppressive bill (01273 298192).

Ending the Century in Struggle

IN a world where at least 800 million people on the planet go hungry, where in the last 20 years the number of people living on under one dollar a day has risen dramatically and developing countries share of global wealth has halved, the World Trade Organisation may seem a bright idea.

Except.....it is run by big business who will not be answerable to anyone. It is the conception of multinationals who will have no enforceable responsibilities to the communities they work in - it is an excuse to maximise profits, continue poverty, destroy the environment and lower workers' rights. We will not take this lying down!

Between 30 Nov and 3 Dec 1999 the WTO met in Seattle, USA and was met with voices of rage and actions of anger.

The state and national security in Seattle/USA spent over \$1.1 million on security. It imposed a curfew from 2pm! until dawn, declared the vicinity around the meeting a "No Demo Zone"

On 30 November 50-60,000 demonstrators took to the streets of Seattle against this show of decadent capitalist globalisation. Thousands blockaded the WTO conference centre, causing the opening session to be cancelled. Demonstrators were met with riot police, tear gas pepper spray, and rubber bullets. 500 people were arrested on the first day for "protesting" or breaking the curfew! Many banks were

damaged, as well as good old MacDonalds.

Longshoremen shut ports all along the west coast of North America in solidarity with the Seattle demonstrators.

Many cities and towns around the world also protested:

Mayda Pradesh, India: 300 people invade the World Bank covering it in posters, graffiti, and cow shit.

London: After a demo at Citibank, later 1,000 protesters met in Euston Station to "reclaim the railways" from privatisation.

Leeds: 100 demonstrate through the town and blockade an Esso garage, and leaflet the Hilton Hotel and British Telecom.

Geneva, Switzerland: Protesters cut the power supply to the WTO HQ plunging the building into darkness and wiping out computer links to Seattle!

Many more actions in scores of towns and cities throughout the planet prove to big business that they can't own our planet or our lives. We will always resist.

SEATTLE QUOTES
"The solidarity here has been amazing, steelworkers supporting ecology activists supporting anarchists."

"There are over 500 people in jail, practising disobedience and jail solidarity there."

"It was one of the most hopeful and inspiring weeks of my life."

2000: Reclaim May Day

ALL OVER the world, people are beginning to direct their anger against the real source of their problems: capitalism. What better time to reclaim the tradition of Mayday to organise for a better world?

Since its beginnings as an ancient celebration of life, Mayday has been the peoples' day. In 1889 it became International Workers' Day to commemorate the execution of Chicago anarchists struggling for an 8-hour working day.

Now activists in London are making 1st May a Festival of Anti-Capitalist Ideas & Actions. Running from Friday 28 April to Monday, the events include all manner of speakers and workshops on revolutionary politics and practice. There will be a women's space, a creche and a kids' zone. Direct action is on for Mon 1st May in London - and in Glasgow, Manchester, Sheffield, Liverpool, Nottingham, Southampton, etc. *London: meet 11am Parliament Square.*

Internationally, independent Mayday actions are anticipated in over 50 towns and cities in 17 countries.

Contact: BM Mayday, London WC1N 3XX. Tel 020 8374 5027, or visit www.freespeech.org/mayday2k For Glasgow www.mayfirst.fsnet.co.uk

More future global anti capitalist action:
16/17 April Washington DC: Demos against the IMF/World Bank Meeting www.a16.org
26/28 Sept. Prague, Czech Republic: Proposal for a Global Day of Action to coincide with the AGM of the IMF/World Bank. Mobilisation already underway in eastern Europe: this could be massive. CONTACT contact@destroyimf.org www.destroyimf.org

Not only a British monster

AFTER THE Shengen and Dublin conventions, and the Amsterdam treaty, the different European states have decided to set out common guidelines on immigration - seeming to find little respect for solidarity and justice. The situation in Australia is even worse - new legislation cuts significant aspects of Australia's obligation to refugees: some potential refugees will be prevented from applying for asylum, others sent home.

The immigration law in Britain represents just one of the examples of this increasing inflexibility. In the first 9 months of 1999 the numbers refused asylum and removed from Britain was

continued foot of column one, back page



Protesters fight back in Ecuador see Page 3 inside

UNITY!

An Edinburgh postal worker writes:
THE MOTTO of the Communication Workers Union is "Unity is Strength" and in two recent disputes Scottish postal workers have once again put that fine sentiment into practice.

Glasgow took unofficial strike action over Xmas overtime rates, achieving a favourable outcome. Postal workers' unwritten code to never handle scab mail from an office on strike, official or otherwise, continues, and Royal Mail have been unable to use mail diversions to break strikes.

In October 1999 a new manager in Livingston, W. Lothian decided to unnecessarily cut the delivery time for Sky/Cable TV magazines without recourse to the proper procedures. Consequently union rep Willie Colquhoun, who held fast to the existing agreement, was sacked on the preposterous charge of "wilful delay of the mail."

Livingston workers struck immediately, only to be persuaded back to work by union officials, confident he'd win his appeal. He didn't.

ANGRY

Angry at this unjust victimisation and seen as a precursor for an offensive against a militant union branch, all of Scotland No 2 branch, 3,000 workers in east Scotland, went on strike, voting at a mass meeting for no return to work unless Willie was reinstated.

Fearing the strike would spread nationally, London talks between CWU leaders and Royal Mail directors swiftly agreed to reinstate Willie Colquhoun. This was

FEAR OF FREEDOM

MOVES BY the liberal political establishment in the new Scottish Parliament to abolish the spurious Section 28 clause have been met with a reactionary backlash. *The Daily Record* ['traditional Labour'!] and Tory tabloids have created a climate of fear based on hysterical images of gay porn and role-playing in classrooms.

Even masters of 'spindoctoring' in Blair's new Labour have been taken aback by the depth of the lies spread through billboards throughout Scotland, coinciding with the Ayr by-election. Labour Ministers in the coalition Scottish Executive have been back-peddling to placate 'worried families'. The reactionary *Keep the Clause* coalition headed by Archbishop Winning and Brian Soutar of Stagecoach have not accepted the concessions.

While gay and liberal lobbyists rush to support the majority in the Scottish Parliament, direct action has highlighted a more spirited response. *Keep the Clause* billboards throughout Scotland have been splattered in paint and commentaries; tons of 'junk mail' has been delivered to their freepost address including telephone books, old newspapers and a paving slab, all addressed to *Keep the Clause* Freepost SCO 5219, Perth PH2 8BR; a boycott of Stagecoach services has spread, whilst in London a no.15 bus was halted by a woman brandishing a banner "Stop in the name of love", followed by Lesbian avengers activists re-painting the bus pink and distributing leaflets to passengers.

An anarchist approach to sexuality rejects homophobia and the climate of gaybashing it produces; it promotes a love of freedom and the freedom to love any mature person irrespective of gender and categorisation; and children are brought up in tolerance and to seek the truth, rather than closeted in ignorance and fear of the unknown.

implemented, despite local management obstruction.

But workers unity has now been put at risk by CWU mandarins promoting the "Employer Agenda/Way Forward" restructuring of our industry. Union leaders collaborated with management to get it voted through.

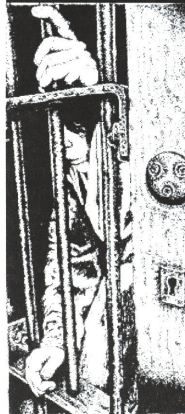
Members' access to the Union's web site mysteriously went off-line to halt dissemination of the counter-arguments, those circulating unauthorised leaflets faced disciplinary charges from management with the tacit approval of the CWU leadership. Workplace meetings were banned unless the recommendation was for acceptance. Mass meetings became sectional, atomised ones to restrict discussion to ensure yes recommenda-

tions. The CWU bureaucracy wished to divide and conquer. The result: a very narrow vote for acceptance.

Unity is not just a CWU membership card but entails an active rank and file, co-operating and co-ordinating at the grass-roots, aye ready to defend their colleagues and thwart a Royal Mail set for confrontation.

• In Bridgwater, Somerset, Royal Mail sacked Union rep Dave Chapple for "inciting an unofficial strike", also in October. But Dave got great support. Not only Bridgwater, but the major Bristol office threatened to walk out. Royal Mail backed down and Dave was reinstated on appeal in December.

INSIDE INFO....INSIDE INFO....INSIDE INFO....INSIDE INFO



ON 26 October 99, after Mumia's lawyers presented an "Habeas Corpus" to the Federal Court and just a few days after Tom Ridge (Pennsylvania's Governor) signed a new death warrant for 2 December, the Federal Judge William John Jr. signed a stay of the execution. Since then many demonstrations, occupations, strikes and protests have happened everywhere in support of Mumia. Judge William John Jr. has already received 15,000 letters in Mumia's support. On 4 March several demos took place in the UK and Europe. (Mumia Abu Jamal, black US activist, fitted up for the murder of a cop in 82, has been on Death Row for 17 years)

Mumia Must Live! BM Haven, London WC1N 3XX TEL 020 7538 5821

Police raided 20 libertarian communist activists around Bologna on 7 December. 5 were imprisoned, charged with "subversion and association with an armed group." ti14264@lperhole.bologna.it

On 31 Jan. Silvano Pellissero was sentenced to 6 years and 10 months for alleged sabotage against the construction of the high speed railway through the Val di Susa. His 2 co-accused, Edoardo Massari and Maria Soledad Rosas, had died in custody (see CI 51). On 5 Feb 1,500 demonstrated in Turin against Silvano's sentence, cordoned off by 1,200 riot police. (Umanita Nova)

TO DATE 8 people convicted for activity at the June 1999 Action in London have been jailed, for 6 to 21 months. Letters much appreciated. (LDMG c/o BM Haven, London WC1N 3XX. 020 7 837 7557)



ROOF RESISTERS

ON 24 January 7 activists of the group Solidarios con Itoitz[Basque country] were arrested while protesting on the roof of Berlin's Brandenburg Gate. 8 activists against the destructive Itoiz dam had earlier received jail terms of 5 years each.

PUERTO REAL ERUPTS

LAST YEAR various actions happened in Puerto Real Shipyard, Cadiz (Spain). Early this year workers entered the shipyard and trashed one of the ships as a protest. Their demands are to have Union rights for all, including casual workers, respect for safety measures and permanent contracts for all.

UNION CITY BLUES

TWO UNISON stewards sacked by Glasgow City Council for "chapping" (knocking on) a door have won their unfair dismissal claims at an employment tribunal, which also ruled they should be re-instated - though the Council have not yet done so. Unison had refused to represent the two, who were dismissed after accompanying a colleague to a disciplinary hearing. Workers in social work services want to know why they had to raise funds through benefits and workplace collections to support these 2 members who they always believed had been unfairly dismissed.

DAMN THE DAM

4,000 OCCUPIED the Maheshwar dam site to stop the Narmada dam system and save local communities from destruction by flooding. Police arrested 1,500.(E!AUJan00)

FREE THE WATER

A RISE in water taxes resulted in thousands protesting in the streets in Cochabamba, Bolivia on 5 Feb.. Police fired rubber bullets and tear gas, and dozens were arrested. (Umanita Nova)

SAY NO TO WAR

ANARCHISTS IN Moscow have held 5 demos against the war in Chechnya. Anarchist anti war activity has also happened in Krasnodar, Novorossysk, Kasimov, St Petersburg, and Niznii Novgorod - and more is planned.

FOUR FREE

CHARGES AGAINST Groundzero non-violent activists in Washington State USA were thrown out on 23 December '99. The four had been accused of traffic offences by displaying a sign stating, the naval base "Bangor closed-Trident violates international law". nvrn0207-607-2302.

PRISON REVOLT

PRISONERS REBELLED and took over part of Yanamayo prison in the Peruvian Andes for several days from 6 February. They are demanding political prisoner status, the closure of the terrible Naval Base prison near Lima, better conditions and access for Red Cross observers.

HUNGER STRIKE

IN THE Spanish State Jaen prison, some prisoners went on hunger strike from 20 February till 20 March. On 18 March almost 100 prisoners went on hunger strike for 4 days, to coincide with an international day of action called by ABC/CNA. The prisoners demands are the end of FIES (isolation regimes), freedom for terminally ill prisoners and the end of dispersion.

(Anarchist Black Cross/CNA, Apdo 24103, 08080, BCN, Spanish State)

ITALY CLAMPDOWN

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J18 Jailings

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WRATH TO US NAVY

A "PEOPLE Power" occupation forced the US military out of the island of Vieques off Puerto Rico after 58 years of bombardment ("military training"), leaving a toxic residue of ammunition. As the UK is the 51st State, Tony Blair invited the US Navy, led by the nuclear powered aircraft carrier SSS Dwight D. Eisenhower, to fire away at the island of Garvie and part of the north-west tip of Scotland at Cape Wrath. Rallies in Inverness and Edinburgh were held, led by Puerto Rico activists, and firing was held up by an occupation on Cape Wrath in March. Info product2000@hotmail.com.

HOT AUTUMN

ACTIONS AGAINST the visit of President Clinton to Greece exploded in Athens and elsewhere during October and November. Many solidarity actions for anarchists arrested in previous clashes occurred. Clashes between reactionary stalinists and anarchist activists were widespread as the Communist Party tried to contain protests and protect the State. A quarterly news summary in English records actions. POB 30557-10033 Athens or (in Greek) www.anarchy.gr

KREUZBERG KLAMPDOWN

1,000 GERMAN police including GSG-9 anti-terrorist forces invaded a collectively owned ex-squat, the Mehring-hof centre at 6am on 19 December. Despite finding no weapons or links to the 'Revolutionary Cells' 2 volunteers were arrested including one from Frankfurt. 3 Bolivian refugees are threatened with deportation after being detained during the raid. 150 people gathered at short notice from the locality to protest against the raid which caused 10,000DM damage. The Social Democrat/Green Federal coalition sanctioned the raid

Green Pepper, info burn.ucsd.edu/~ats/razzia.html

RED CLOUD THUNDER

DIRECT ACTION activists 30 miles east of Eugene in Oregon, USA have been 'defending' woodland and wildlife from the Clark Timber sale. On platforms on giant Douglas firs between 150-260 feet above the ground the action continues

redcloud@efn.org www.efn.org/~redcloud

BUS RIDERS OF THE LA WAY

'FARE STRIKES' to improve the lot of bus commuters in Los Angeles have forced bus companies to replace antiquated coaches. Direct action methods by hispanic, black and asian activists of the *Bus Riders Union* encourage passengers "no seat no fare" and strike on Thursdays. Dressed as 'sardines' activists incited rebellion against the first fare rise in 4 years.

SPANISH SQUATS ATTACKED

SINCE LATE last year the police have evicted several Squats. This looks like it has been planned to coincide with the run-up to the General Elections. Police and local Councils have been pressuring owners of squatted properties to carry out evictions. This cost the life of a person who died during one of the evictions in Valencia.

FIERY DEMO IN DAVOS

THE TOP politicians and business people at the World Economic Forum in the Swiss Alps were surprised by 1,300 demonstrators who had journeyed there from France, Germany, Italy and Switzerland itself. A highlight of the 29 Jan demo in Davos came when a huge MacDonalds ad was set on fire and the smoke cloud went straight into the WEF venue! (PGA Bulletin, from RTS)

Columbia

State murder and people's resistance

COLOMBIA IS still living a difficult social and political situation due to the violent policies of the Colombian and US Governments, including the war against the guerilla armies, which force many people to leave their homes and, often, their home region.

Over a million Colombian citizens are "displaced". This has generated a social movement demanding solutions. 300 people of this movement occupied the International Red Cross and Solidarity Network HQ in Bogotá from 23 February.

Also an occupation of the Government Environmental Department, started last December by the Indigenous community Emberas Katios, continues. The community's demand is to stop a Hydroelectric mega dam project in Urra (north east) where they live. This project threatens the lives of over 200

families who don't want to leave their ancestral land, due to the floods, and a similar number of families will be forced to move away.

On 23 Feb the army and police violently dispersed a protest of more than 500 people of the U' was indigenous community demonstrating against the occupation of their land by the transnational OXI Petroleum. The state forces killed 5 people and over 10 are missing, all U' was. Social Organizations called for a National and International Day of Protest on 25 Feb. to support the Embera and U' was.



ANARCHISTS and Anti fascists in Sweden have not been intimidated by the fascist murder of Bjorn Soderberg. Bjorn, an activist in the anarcho syndicalist union SAC, was shot in Stockholm on 12 Oct.. 3 fascists were arrested. 40,000 demonstrated their sorrow and anger in 20 towns across Sweden on 23 Oct.(see photo). Bjorn was murdered for exposing prominent fascist Robert Vesterlund - causing Vesterlund to lose his position as shop steward and leave the union. SAC, Box 6507, 11383 Stockholm.

AUSTRIA As the far right Freedom Party joined the coalition government in Austria on 4 February, school students and workers walked out, and 10,000 demonstrated in Vienna. Protesters stormed the Social Security Ministry, where a Freedom Party member was to take office. On 18 Feb 5,000 school students struck, and next day 300,000 marched. Haider has now resigned as leader, and its Justice Minister has suffered a breakdown.

DENMARK For a year locals in Aalborg have been demonstrating - and singing! - outside a house which the Danish Nazi Party turned into their HQ. On 20 February 500 anti fascists gathered to celebrate 1 year's resistance against the Nazi house.

GERMANY Hundreds took direct action against 400 fascist NPD members marching in Berlin on 12 March - 200 anti fascists arrested.

HANGING ON THE TELEPHONE

SWEATSHOPS, GALLEY-SHIPS, phone farms, 21st Century mills; all terms used to describe call centres. Poor training, low wages, time pressure, repetitiveness, constant monitoring - even counting toilet breaks - and tough targets are only some complaints.

In November, 4,000 British Telecom workers in 37 Call Centres decided not to put up with heavy-handed management any

longer and voted for a series of 24 hour strikes.

In January, a man was sacked from his call centre job, by Excell Multimedia LLC in Glasgow after speaking about bad working conditions. A woman has been asked to undergo "facial mapping" as the company suspects she was the employee on a critical TV interview whose face was only partly visible. Another Excell employee lost his attendance bonus after having an epileptic fit at work. *Sounds like time for Excell workers to follow BT staff's example.*

Ecuador

Enough is enough

IN JANUARY a revolt against the Government called by COAINE (Indigenous Nations and People) and others, ended up taking over the Parliament.

More than 200,000 people were involved in the revolt including teachers, medical staff, taxi drivers, transport workers, banana workers, informal sellers, oil Unions, students and also sectors of the regular army and a former judge. The uprising was due to the Government submitting to global markets and the plan to adopt the US dollar as the nation's currency.

The "people's parliament" decided to give the power to Ecuador's vice-president, who promised to look at people's demands. Since then, everybody involved in the uprising organization is being threatened, persecuted and jailed.

The indigenous groups are calling for a new People's Revolt on 21 May, after nothing has been changed from the previous plans of the Government. This revolt will be supported by other organizations including the largest worker's Union FUT.

(Info AINFOS www.ainfos.ca/rojo y negro(feb 00), Resistance, Gallopinto no 39 (Jan 00))

PATRIARCHAL PILLAR TOPPLED

IN MONTREAL, Canada on 8 March, International Womens Day, a women's collective took direct action against "a pillar of patriarchy" - local HQ of the catholic church. Its altars and relics were baptised anew with maxipads, bras, condoms, women's newsletters and placards!

Then as people (the action was organised by women but men were welcome) moved down the street, police gave chase in high speed vehicles. They pursued people with batons and one man was repeatedly beaten while lying on the ground. Whilst he was taken away in an ambulance, police were surrounded by an emotionally charged crowd of passersby and retreated.

As 4 people waited outside a police station that evening for those arrested a well known anti police brutality activist was also arrested. <http://damn.tao.ca>

• International Womens Day saw a global womens strike, with activity in over 60 countries. "for a millenium which values all women's work and all women's lives, and for an end to no pay, low pay and too much work." Now *Women's Wednesdays in Whitehall* continues this struggle with a weekly protest picket 1-2pm every Wed at Downing St. Info *Wages for Housework* 0207 482 2496

GLOBAL ACTION

"WE HAVEN'T stopped opening more space for dialogue and contact with other spaces in other continents, we want to know more about how you are doing, we want to continue working with you, we want to go on strengthening our networks of communication and of course we want and are building up action." (Zapatistas)

Zapatistas will be taking part in the Peoples Global Action Latin American meeting as part of their continuing resistance to global capitalism. Zapatista women marched in San Cristobal de las Casas on 8 March - International Womens Day - in the face of increasing militarisation. The Mexican army are building new roads and bases in the jungles. EZLN supporters detained an army patrol by stretching cord across the road whilst women blocked it.

Hundreds of Mexican university students have been imprisoned for resisting IMF and World Bank instituted reforms and are subject to human rights violations. After occupying their campus for 10 months they were arrested by 2000 police. Some students have

fled to the hills whilst parents of arrested students have taken to the streets to protest.

In West Papua the struggle for self-determination continues. On 2 December 1000 people praying for liberation in front of a church were shot at without warning by the police and military. Several hundred people were in hospital with serious injuries. Students from West Papua occupied the Dutch embassy in Jakarta demanding independence from Indonesia. On 8 February thousands of tribal people took to the streets in Sorong closing down shopping centres and businesses. Sentani airport (just one example of a colonialist, environmentally destructive business project forced on West Papua) was closed down by the Sokoy tribe saying "This is our land, not Indonesian, you need to ask us before you do anything."

Support demos saw the Indonesian president and businessmen greeted by 500 rioting demonstrators in ski masks in Switzerland and in the UK by 25 with custard pies and fake blood and a warning "Good morning suits, you are not anonymous, you are not invisible - if you invest in genocide we will target you!"



Residents picket Shettleston Police Station

photo : Product

AN INCREDIBLE self-organised direct action struggle by the residents of Glasgow's Gartocher Terrace continues to resist William "Rubbish Rat" Combe. Combe has been trying to move his waste disposal business into a new industrial site in quiet Gartocher Terrace.

The residents recently took on freemason Combe's chief allies - the police. On 14 December over 30 residents, including kids, invaded Shettleston police station and - singing and telling jokes - staged a 10 hour overnight sit-in. 4 days later residents, banners flying, besieged the police station, supported by Faslane Peace Camp, Edinburgh's Autonomous Centre and Glasgow anarchists.

8 residents and Faslane supporters have been charged in the course of the struggle, but only 2 convicted, of minor offences. Combe faces 4 sets of charges, including trying to run over residents and making threatening phone calls.

With community solidarity growing, residents have together bought a caravan which acts as community centre, kids' play space and meeting room. In March the caravan was used to blockade Combe's skip lorries for 2 days.

"If we hadn't done what we've done, Combe's business would be up and running," a resident told CI. "And we've done it without authority people telling us what to do. We're never going to give in."

More people needed to help the struggle. Phone 07979 836223. (See also CI53)

ASYLUM Cont from p.1

2,900 more than in 1998. Over 90,000 people have been deported since Labour took office in May 1997. And now the new Immigration and Asylum Act will make refugees even worse off.

But there is resistance. Demonstrators against racist asylum policy besieged Campfield Detention Centre in Oxfordshire on 27 November, showing solidarity with the 200 refugees jailed there.

The Sans Papiers immigrants

movement in France successfully stopped the deportation of an Algerian student at Choisy-Le-Roi airport on 24 Feb. They mobilised support from passengers and airport workers and stopped the student being put on the plane to Algeria. At a subsequent court appearance the judge ordered the student be liberated, though he was due in court in March.

Close Campfield Campaign asylum@sable.ox.ac.uk Nat. Coalition of Anti Deportation Campaigns, 101 Villa Rd, Birmingham B19 www.ncad.demon.co.uk/

TALES OF RESISTANCE

People resist oppression everyday. We welcome more first-hand accounts.

FIGHTING THE COCK UP, COVER UP CULTURE

An Edinburgh council tenant writes

CAVE IN or fight? That was the choice forced upon me when the Council cocked up my rent account then tried to evict me for arrears. I didn't even know about the eviction action - along with my rent book they had sent their legal letters to the wrong address. In the 'cock up, cover up' culture enshrouding council officials (instructed never to admit liability) I was just a statistic. To me, I was a victim. The answer was clear. I would fight.

That was two years ago. Two years of tit-for-tat struggle. When I threatened the local office with the Ombudsman their reply arrived in the shape of five warrants for £3,000 poll tax arrears, all from a time when I was on income support. It was a declaration of war. Battle was enjoined with the Housing and Finance Departments and with their notoriously punitive Legal Services Division. (Ask any Shelter worker about council lawyers!)

Working full time, my weekends were spent studying housing law and writing probing letters to the local councillor, to the local council office, to the senior housing officer, to the Directors of Housing and Finance, all ending with "I submit this as a formal complaint." Letters to the newspapers, to an ACE rights worker, and to my lawyer who advised me that the Council had no case.

But their thuggish lawyers dragged the action on and on. The Scottish Legal Aid Board demanded £800 towards my legal costs. I advised them to get it from the Council. My legal aid was suspended but my lawyer somehow got it reinstated while I continued to pick holes in the Council's conduct, culminating in a full-page article in the local newspaper that sent shock waves through the Council's Blairite hierarchy. Their lawyers were eventually forced to drop the eviction action.

As a direct result of this farrago of bullying lies a few like minds are now discussing forming a "Bin the Bill" group to combat the collection of poll tax "arrears", and publishing a news sheet and/or website searchlighting incompetence and corruption in Edinburgh City Council.

The moral of the story is clear. When bureaucratic bumbledom turns nasty there is only one way to go. Don't cave in. Fight.

But, crucially, don't fight alone.

Anyone wanting to get involved in the Bin the Bill Campaign or news-sheet should contact ACE, 17 W Montgomery Place, Edinburgh EH7 5HA

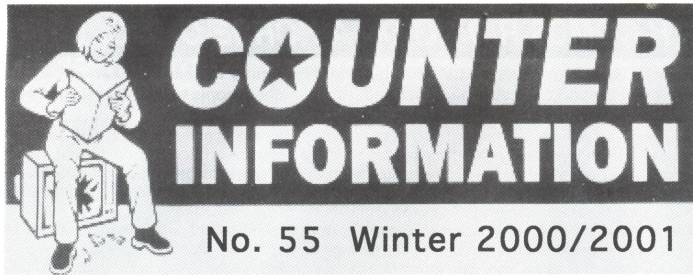
GET INVOLVED !

• Clydeside anarchist circle write CI[ac] c/o Transmission 28 King St., G1 5QP: first may/treason www.mayfirst.fsnet.co.uk • Autonomous Centre/Edin.Claimants/Autonomous Women c/o 17 W. Montgomery Pl., Edinburgh EH7 5HA 0131-557-6242, lothian@burn.ucsd.edu www.autonomous.org.uk OR http://burn.ucsd.edu/~lothian/Open Tues 12-4pm & Sun 2-6pm • 5th May group POB 2474, London, N8 (Turkish/Kurdish/s) • Anarchist Fed. c/o 84b Whitechapel High St. London E1 7QX acf@burn.ucsd.edu www.afed.org.uk • Anarchist Trade Union Network, BOX EMAB, 88 Abbey Street, Derby, DE22 3SQ. Grp7763aol.com • Class War, PO Box 467, London E8 3QX • 56a Infoshop, 56 Crampton St., London SE17 • Earth First! Action Update, POB 1TA, Newcastle-on-Tyne NE99 1TA. 07974791841 www.eco-action.org/efau <actionupdate@gn.apc.org> • Education Worker Network, POB 29, SW PD0, Manchester M15 5HW • Federation Anarchiste, 145 Rue Amelot, 75011 Paris, France • Hariney Solidarity Group, Box 2474, London N8. 020 8374 5027 hsg@clara.net • Industrial Workers of the World, 75 Humberstone Gate, Leicester LE1 1WB • Kate Sharpley Library, BM Hurricane, London WC1 3XX • Kommunist Kranti, Majdoor Library, Autopin Jhuggi, Fardabad-121001, India • Lancaster Anarchist Group, c/o The Basement, 78A Penny Street, Lancaster • London Greenpeace, 5 Caledonian Rd., London N1 • Reclaim the Streets, PO Box 9656, London N4 4 JY. 020 7281 4621 • SchNEWS, PO Box 2600, Brighton BN2 2DX. 01273-685913 schnews@brighton.co.uk http://www.schnews.org.uk/ • S.Herts Sol.Fed PO Box 493, St. Albans, AL1 5TW Distros: Active BM Active, London WC1N 3XX • AK PO Box 12766, Edinburgh, EH8 9YE Write for listing. Thanks to Anarchist Graphics, Box 5, 167 Fawcett Rd, Southsea, Hants PO4

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FOR A WORLD WITHOUT BORDERS

FOR CENTURIES, Brits have emigrated for many reasons. Though often 'economic refugees', they were allowed into Australia, the US, and all over Europe. Refugees fleeing severe economic, racial or political trouble do not receive the same welcome here, although since World War 2, migration out of Britain has been consistently higher than the numbers wanting to settle.

Economic/racial/political motives are always intertwined. People should have the right to relocate without their motives being questioned.

In July, thousands of Eastern European gypsies were judged to have no right to asylum in the UK. This was based on the case of an asylum seeker whose father was beaten to death, his brother attacked and his home ransacked. The Slovakian police did nothing. The right to seek asylum is only granted if the applicant's own state can't or won't protect its people. For the British Government, acknowledging that this is the case in Slovakia would harm international relations. It would also leave their own police and judiciary open to criticism, especially after e.g. the Stephen Lawrence case.

Restrictive immigration policy opens the way for illegal traffic in refugees, whereby criminals profit and asylum seekers die in the backs of lorries.

The Home Office's agency, the Asylum

Support Service, has issued contracts to scumbag landlords to house refugees. Home Office and landlords maintain secrecy about the cost of housing and circumstances in the buildings. Resident refugees are threatened if they talk to the press, thrown out if they complain. Landlords make huge profits on accommodation that was deemed unacceptable for British citizens and is often damp, overcrowded and in sink estates where no doctors or other facilities are available. Ironically, 2000 fully trained doctors are amongst Asylum Seekers who are not allowed to work in Britain.

In the detention centres, people are held without charge, without time limit, without decent access to legal representation. These are breaches of internationally recognised human rights.

RESISTANCE

In March, action at Campsfield detention centre resulted in expensive damage to the prison's electricity supply. Campsfield houses around 200 men, mostly political refugees. It is run for profit by Group 4 on behalf of the Immigration Service.

A picket was held at Harmondsworth Detention Centre (capacity 95 detainees), conveniently just outside Heathrow Airport, on 15 July. Protesters climbed the fence and made contact with the refugees and a group of 12 visited refugees the next day. If you know the name of an asylum seeker inside, guards have to let you visit. Visitors are an important source of legal information and moral support for asylum seekers.

Direct action at airports has successfully prevented several deportations. Following French examples, on 18 July the anti-prison group CAGE leafleted passengers about to board a flight deporting a Zairean refugee. One passenger was arrested for standing up and refusing to let the flight depart. Eventually the refugee was removed from the flight at the pilot's demand. A second deportation, of Kurdish refugee Amanj Gafor, was cancelled when the Home Office heard of planned resistance. Similar actions in Belgium have led to airlines refusing to deport asylum seekers altogether.

As British Airways are still making profits on the backs of asylum seekers, demonstrations

CONTINUED BACK PAGE TOP COL 1

Demonstrators scale the fence at Harmondsworth Detention Centre on 15 July (photo CARF)



STILL BURNING A NEW WORLD ORDER

ESTIMATED CROWDS of 15,000 to 20,000 people filled the streets of Prague and besieged the fortress meeting of the IMF and the World Bank on 26 September.

Many were prevented from entering the Czech Republic at the border. 400 of the Italian collective 'Ya basta' and other activists were told their chartered train couldn't enter unless 4 people blacklisted by the FBI for their involvement with Seattle protests got off. In solidarity everyone refused this and the train moved through.

Although there was a generalised focus on opposing the economic brutality of the IMF protest motivations and tactics were varied. INPEG (a group who did much organising for the day of action) declared "We do not sup-

port the initiation of any violence against people animals or property. At the same time we support citizens democratic rights to demonstrate. We oppose any measures taken by any authorities to prevent people from exercising this right."

This contrasts with the actions of KRRS (Karnataka state Farmer's Movement) in India who have destroyed a Cargill seed unit with iron bars, burned Monsanto's fields of bio-tech cotton and trashed a Cargill office and a Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet. It also contrasts with the armed struggle of other communities across the world. Reformist organisations claims of acting in allegiance with non-western and other liberation struggles can be a rip-off.

Medha Patkar, an organiser in the Narmada Bachao Andolan

(movement against the flooding of the Narmada Valley), says "The context of developed and developing countries is different. Those who are for reforms (will) realise over a period of time that these institutions are beyond reform. ... We're against the whole capitalist system." And so were plenty on the day of action!

TACTICS

People met beforehand in the INPEG organised convergence centre where people held mass meetings discussing tactics. People formed affinity groups to look out for each other. As a whole the gathering also divided into blue, yellow and pink blocks taking different directions (and surprising the police) on the day.

As the massed ranks of 11,000 riot police clashed with all sections of the march gas-masked, body-padded, helmeted (or not)

protestors in the blue and yellow sections (mainly anarchist) pushed back the police, scaling fences and seizing batons and helmets from the police. Stones and molotov cocktails were flung with some police set alight. It looked as if the meeting might be stormed until police reinforcements arrived. Police used gas, water cannons, armed personnel carriers and brutality.

Conference delegates were reported to be alarmed and agitated as they struggled to hear each other above the firing. Delegates were successfully blockaded in their hotels and an opera event was cancelled.

Over 859 people were arrested and subjected to varying degrees of police terror whilst imprisoned. People were bruised, had bones and teeth broken, denied

CONTINUED BACK PAGE COL 1



World to Win

LILLE ALIGHT

After the unprovoked police killing of Riad Hamlaoui in Lille, France on 18 April riots erupted in working class suburbs with attempts to set two police stations alight.

WOODEN SPOON

Mexico City women celebrated international housework day by 'downing tools' and banging wooden spoons on pots and pans in street demos involving employees, housewives and some of the 1.7 million domestic maids to Mexico's upper class.

DAM BEATTY

Campaigners are opposing the eviction of 25,000 people in Kurdish Turkey to make way for the Ilisu Dam, funded potentially by £200 million British Government money. 50 activists stripped off to their T-shirts at Balfour Beatty's AGM in May and were evicted by Group 4 heavies.

COMPANY POLICY

The Rio Tinto Zinc AGM was disrupted on 12 May by protesters highlighting the destruction of the Kelian community in Indonesia [partizans@gn.apc.org]

MAST MENACE

Residents at Burnage, Manchester have successfully taken direct action against an Orange mast near their homes [Direct Action 15 & 16]

FREE FOR ALL

Railway passengers took direct action for "free transport for all" near Lyon, France on 6 May. 20 travelled Lyon-Chambery for free, a picnic was held in Chambery station, and a train was blockaded. (Combat Syndicaliste, CNT)

AULD REEKIE RECLAIMED 1000 people defied police and reclaimed streets all over Edinburgh city centre - including Princes St. - for over 4 hours on 17 June. www.reshape.org.uk/

ENJOYMENT ZONE

Unemployed people took over a Labour Party office and transformed it into an Enjoyment Zone as part of the 23 March European Day of Action against Workfare.

BBAG, Box 77, 82 Colston St., Bristol. GAY PRIDE DEFIES POPE 200,000 marched in Rome on 8 July for the World Gay Pride festival. Gays and straights together defied Vatican attempts to stop the event.

SELECT PARTICIPATION 1,000 rioted against repressive Quebec City police 'protecting' a meeting of Parti Quebecois politicians and hand-picked youth in Feb..

BIASED BAMS BARRACKED

Claimants picketed the BMA AGM on 26 June to oppose their collusion with Doctors participating in the Medical Services examinations, which are biased to deny claimants disability benefits. In March demonstrators besieged Brighton MS after they refused benefits to Jack Watson, despite his suffering two heart attacks. (Incapacity Action 01227 276159 Brighton Against Benefit Cuts 01273 540717, BAMS leaflet from Edinburgh Claimants - see p4)

DEATH COMES RIDING ON A HORSE OF DOLLARS

BILL CLINTON'S visit to Cartagena (Colombia) on 31 August, to seal Plan Colombia, lead thousands of students, workers, indigenous communities and other people to take over the streets to demonstrate and strike against the new measures of the Plan.

Plan Colombia in fact includes, as one of its strategies, a military component that not only fails to resolve the narco-traffic problem, but also endangers the efforts to build peace, increases illicit crop production, violates the Amazon ecosystem, aggravates the humanitarian and human rights crisis, multiplies the problem of forced displacement, and worsens the social crisis with fiscal adjustment policies. In its social component, the Plan is limited to attending to some of the tangential causes and effects of the conflict.

In early August 700,000 people struck against the austerity measures and record unemployment imposed by the Colombian government. 15,000 workers marched through the capital Bogotá.

On 29 August dozens of students forced their way into the main offices of the five-countries Andean Parliament in Bogotá where they detained 20 employees plus, Ruben Velez Nunez, Ecuadorian legislator and parliamentary secretary-general.

On 31 August thousands of workers joined the students of the National University of Bogotá. During the street battles between students, workers and police, 3 people were murdered and many injured. In other main cities of the country similar events took place.

At the beginning of September, anti-riot police went to the U'wa community in Cubara to evict all civilians present in a 500 metre radius surrounding the exploratory well site of Gibraltar. The purpose of this eviction is to help Occidental Petroleum bring machinery to the new drill site. On 22 September the Colombian Embassy in London was picketed in solidarity with the U'wa people.

On 16 Sept. paramilitaries murdered 4 and kidnapped 16 people from the Embera-Katio indigenous community.

BOLIVIA'S BURNING

THE CORRUPT politics of the Bolivian government meets the interests of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, but imposes austerity on the Bolivian people, eg through the new Water Tax.

This has triggered spontaneous workers and peasants direct actions, without the direction of any party or union. Groups of peasants have destroyed a coffee field and factory, set offices of a Shell subsidiary on fire after an oil leakage damaged the peasants' field, and taken over a local Council office.

In April the government imposed martial law. Police carried out raids all around the country. 55 peasants were kidnapped and tortured by the army. The army occupied Sucre University. 5 people were murdered by state forces and 35 shot and wounded.

INSIDE INFO



MARK BARNESLEY

IN 1994 Mark Barnesley was fitted-up with a 12 year prison sentence for defending himself after being attacked and beaten up by 15 drunken students. He has fought this injustice for more than 6 years, rather than keep quiet and go for parole. Mark had a long previous history of radical political activism, which had made him the target of police harassment in the past. Prison authorities have treated him with brutality and harassment, constantly moving him from prison to prison. For more info and details of a new booklet about Mark's case contact: Justice for M. Barnesley-PO Box 381, Huddersfield, HD1 3XX, UK or barnesleycampaign@hotmail.com Mark's new address: Mark Barnesley WA2897, HMP Frankland, Brasside, Durham, DH1 5YD

LEONARD PELTIER

LEONARD PELTIER, a Native American activist, was jailed 24 years ago for the murders of two FBI agents, even though there was absolutely no proof of his guilt. A United States Parole Commission Examiner, who refused to read a medical report on Leonard's health, denied Leonard's application for parole last June 12th. The report showed that Leonard's health is deteriorating and has been not treated appropriately by prison medical staff. For more info, www.lpsg.co.org

SPANISH PRISONS

EARLY THIS year Spanish prisoners at the "FIES" isolation units had co-ordinated actions inside and outside the prisons to demand their rights. Prisoners were denied entry to the prison courtyard, beaten up with steel bars, left naked and handcuffed to their bed for days and their correspondence interfered with. The actions taken by the Prisoners went from distributing propaganda to hunger strikes. Support groups have been very active especially in Barcelona. More info contact, AAPEL, Blasco Garai, 2 - 08004 Barcelona, Spain.

MUMIA MUST LIVE!

JUDGE JOHN who will be hearing Mumia's appeal in the federal court, officially refused to accept into the court record all four of the amicus briefs filed in support of Mumia's defence. There is now a "Writ of Mandamus" to demand that Judge John accept the briefs. Contact the legal observers at 651-649-4579(US) or download a version from <http://www.refuseandresist.org/mumia/091500joinder.pdf>

For more info on Mumia contact International Concerned Family and Friends of MAJ, P.O. Box 19709, Philadelphia, PA 19143 Contact Mumia at - Mumia Abu-Jamal, AM 8335, SCI-Greene, 175 Progress Drive, Waynesburg, PA 15370

Reporting on the Examiners

In Scotland in August controversy raged over the exam result fiasco. A school student in Scotland writes:

Thousands of students have been angered by the comedy of errors by the SQA, the quango responsible for Scottish exams. This has prompted some to call on the Minister of Education, Sam Galbraith, to resign and for the SQA to be made accountable - i.e. to those lackeys in the Scottish Assembly.

But such criticisms ignore the nature of the exam system, and the whole compulsory schooling system of which it's part. The school system is a tool of capitalism, ensuring pupils are taught what will make them useful for business rather than what they need to know for themselves. You learn what *they* say is true, what *they* say is important - what will be in the exam - rather than what you feel you should know.

The exam system falsely exalts the academic as somehow superior to other work. Those who fail this charlatan's test of merit are pushed towards a life of poverty whilst such punishment is justified under the lie that they just couldn't have worked hard enough at school. As one of those angry Higher students I would dearly love to see Mr. Galbraith go. However the most important thing is that I want to see a time when people learn and work for their own benefit, without want.

THE UPSTANDING REVOLT

To paraphrase: *never have so many watched so few do so little with such effect.*

A determined group of haulage contractors, backed by pressure groups such as *Farmers in Action* created the impression that an anti-Government rebellion was underway in September. Now a 60 day ultimatum threatens the Labour Government as the opportunist Tories rise in the polls.

The example of French Government capitulation to lorry drivers and farmers led to copy-cat actions in Britain, Belgium, Germany, Italy & elsewhere. The restriction in production by the oil-producing countries in OPEC, led to sharp rises in fuel.

The traffic go-slows gave way to blockades of the fuel depots. The haulage contractor demands for special dispensation for their

Bollards to Combe



Demonstrators active in support of the Terrace

RUTHLESS BUSINESSMAN William Combe has been trying for 18 months to operate a polluting illegal waste site in Gartocher Terrace in Glasgow's East End. He's backed by the might of Glasgow City Council and Strathclyde Police.

But the local residents refuse to give in, devising ever more ingenious methods of direct action to protect their and their children's health. In August residents constructed their own bollards in the street. These DIY traffic calming measures allowed cars to pass - but prevented the passage of Combe's big skip lorries.

The police and Council, ever eager to assist in the poisoning of the working class in the pursuit of profit, ordered the bollards be removed. The residents refused. After a week, the Council Roads Department ripped up the bollards.

On 17 August supporters of Gartocher residents distributed a leaflet outside a Glasgow City Council meeting asking some pertinent questions: "Why did Council Planning Committee Convenor Ronald Davey and Councillor Jim Coleman push through residential planning premission for a site that is obviously industrial?"

"Why did Council planning Department official Phil Gelthorpe warn Combe of a Council inspection of the site so that he could remove his skips? Why is Gelthorpe appearing as a character witness in a court case where Combe is charged with harassing a Gartocher Terrace resident?"

A blow of solidarity against Combe was struck when 150 participated in a moving street carnival through the local area on 27 May. Shettleston police station was besieged, and demonstrators stormed Combe's Gartocher Terrace compound. Fencing was dismantled, the ventilation improved in his industrial units, and his CCTV cameras creatively re-designed with large stones.

Another mass action of support may soon be needed. In late September Combe was threatening that in early November he would bring in a 70 foot low loader artie with a 11 and a half foot wide JCB! A resident told us "He's no getting in - and that's it."

Contact 07979 836223. Write to The Residents, Gartocher Terrace, Glasgow G32 0HE

industry and rural communities became intertwined with consumer resentment over indirect taxation policy.

'Mysteriously', the police who had mobilised against the miners in 1985, and now have much greater powers, found themselves 'unable' to protect tanker drivers against 'intimidation'. Faced with the complicity of Oil companies dragging their feet, and instructing their tanker drivers not to venture out, police inaction and a concerted media campaign, the Government was made to look powerless.

Eventually, as the conspiracy became clearer the Government highlighted the effects on the health service. Passive support from motorists began to evaporate and the supply was resumed with the blockades suspended. The Oil companies, appearing largely

blameless up till then, then hiked up the price of fuel!

The media portrayed the event as an orderly crisis led by upstanding citizens. The rebellion was framed totally in terms of the *National Interest* as consumers and the interests of business. With 'the silent majority' adopting the narrow focus as 'motorists', environmental imperatives such as controlling greenhouse emissions, and promoting efficient public transport to reduce vehicle usage have been set back.

It is appealing to witness Blair & Brown's yuppie Government in disarray. But direct action within a framework of Nationalism and small business interests, works to the detriment of class consciousness. It undermines an awareness that the planet's climate and environment is being steadily destroyed by allegiance to selfish, profit-driven blinkered motives.



World to Win

NO SWEAT!

During the Democratic Party Convention in Los Angeles on 17th August thousands of local residents and workers joined anarchists in a march through the garment district where workers cheered from upper-storey windows. The march was then joined by antimilitarist protesters against the U.S. Navy bombing of Vieques in Puerto Rico.

DINO DIRECT

Demonstrators dressed as dinosaurs cycled through Calgary, Canada in June at the World Petroleum Congress pointing out how global ecological damage is linked to continuing car use & fuel abuse.

SIMON JONES

On 1st September, 70 demonstrators including the family of Simon Jones killed in an 'industrial accident' on his first day at Shoreham Docks in Sussex, marched to the Crown Prosecution Service demanding that the company, Euromin, be brought to Court. Each year around 283 workers are killed at work. One friend of was arrested during the demo when the police forced the protest on to the pavement. www.simonjones.org.uk

DUDLEY MORE

600 mostly women NHS workers in Dudley, West Midlands, stepped up strike action on 3rd Sept. with a week long stoppage, against plans to transfer their jobs to a private firm Summit Healthcare under Labour's Private Finance Initiative [PFI]

CODE RED

300,000 workers in 18 Russian cities from the Baltic to the Pacific protested on 17th May against a new Labour Code removing workers' rights and enforcing a 56 hour working week!

BROKEN PROMISES

School pupils in Aberdeenshire coastal villages continue to resist the imposition of charges for bussing to Banff Academy. When the MacDuff school closed 30 years ago free bussing was promised to defuse protests.

IF IT WASNAE FOR THE WIMMIN 11 women at Forframe, Huntingdon, near Cambridge, have stood out for a decent wage rise against their boss Mr Perl. The workers picketed Boots where their frames sell for 130 times what they are paid for each picture frame & enlisted the demo support of ex-miners outside Perl's mansion.

MAN OF STRAW

A demonstration against a 5 mile exclusion zone against a traditional gypsy horse fair was held on 9th Sept.. The traditional fair held for more than 400 years at Horsmonden in Kent has been banned by Home Secretary, Jack Straw, using the Criminal Justice Act to prevent people gathering on the common. [see Schneus 8-9-00] Meanwhile an unofficial gypsy site in Plymouth has been relocated after being invaded by sheriff officers and the land, including trees, uprooted on the instructions of the National Trust!

BREAKING BORDERS

Polish anarchists violated border regulations and held a demonstration at the Lutowski crossing with Ukraine & Slovakia in July. An international camp was organised.

NO BORDERS from page one

to stop the deportations are continuing.

In August, rioting asylum seekers in Australia burned down buildings and tore down fences at the remote detention centre Woomera. Days earlier demonstrations were held in Perth, Sydney and Melbourne against the camps. In June, 700 refugees escaped out of 3 camps to the town centres to protest against their geographical and political isolation.

A Nigerian refugee who raised concern about conditions at Glasgow's YMCA was quickly transferred. Within weeks, Eniola Adewale's asylum application was turned down. A campaign to support him has been stepped up. Contact Edinburgh address below.

In Edinburgh, a march to defend refugees and for equality and diversity took place 24 June. National Days of Action (29 July in England / Wales, 12 Aug in Scotland) were held against the Voucher System. Now it's refugees who get stigmatising food vouchers instead of cash, tomorrow it could be claimants! The Government has announced the system will at least be reviewed - actions are paying off; they need to be stepped up to ensure the abolition of the vouchers and the payment of full benefits to refugees.

Refugees Welcome Here, c/o Peace and Justice Centre, St. John's, Princes St, Edinburgh EH2 4BJ
www.refugeecampaign.fsnet.co.uk
National Coalition of Anti Deportation Campaigns, 110 Hampstead Rd, Birmingham B20 2QS 0121 - 554 6947 www.ncadc.demon.co.uk/
CAGE, c/o PO Box 68, Oxford OX3 1RH 07931401962
CARE, BM Box 8784, London WC1 3XX (anti racist, anti fascist mag)



PRAGUE from page 1

translation rights, water and food, systematically deprived of sleep, kept isolated in the dark for days, handcuffed so they bled, handcuffed standing for hours, sexually and racially insulted, harassed and assaulted, beaten continuously (e.g. for over 30 minutes), flung in the boot of a van, strip-searched, made witness to violence against others and one woman's spine was broken after she 'fell' from a first floor window.

The convergence centre was shut on 27 September and people were scattered about the city. 20 stood in a busy tourist square and blew whistles with signs hung around their necks saying "arrest me". Gradually they attracted a crowd of 200 and moved on gathering to be 1,500 in order to blockade the interior ministry for the immediate release of all prisoners.

On 25 September 40 Czech neo-

Ya Basta from Italy in action in Prague

nazis had marched under heavy police protection 'against the IMF and the left'. Some of them were later given access to police cells in order to hurt and intimidate prisoners. We need to clarify our differences to right wing antiglobalizers. In the words of Peoples Global Action "We reject all forms and systems of domination and discrimination including, but not limited to, patriarchy, racism and religious fundamentalism of all creeds. We embrace the full dignity of all human beings."

See www.ainfos.ca/ & http://uk.indymedia.org • Prague prisoner solidarity still desperately needed - 0208 292 2094. Cheques to Prague Prisoner Support via Reclaim the Streets, PO Box 9656, London N4 4JY

The Mayday Global Day of Action, Resistance and Carnival against capital was marked by major actions world-wide.
http://www.indymedia.org.uk/newsite/

TALES OF RESISTANCE

Workers of McJobs Unite!

McDONALDS has come to be as closely associated with low pay and poor working conditions as it has with hamburgers. If 'Big Mac' has entered our language then so have terms such as 'McJobs' and 'McDonaldization'.

For McDonalds employees, the problems endemic to the job are exaggerated by the company's idiotic rules and imbecilic propaganda. So it's no surprise that many of us informally resist the company in whatever way we can.

McDonalds Workers' Resistance (MWR) has been formed by a group of McDonalds workers who want to take resistance to the company a stage further. We believe that if we can only realise our collective power then there is nothing we can't win, and we think we can do this best without leaders or hierarchies but by working at a local level to begin to control our working lives.

MWR has no membership or office bearers and because of the companies obsession with stamping out all who oppose it, we can't be open about our involvement with the group. This has not stopped us from scoring small but encouraging victories, for example, some of us finally received unpaid bonuses, some of which dated back years.

Our methods involve sabotage and

disobedience with 'working to rule' being especially effective, but we also encourage employees to know and enforce those few rights which they do have.

Another aim is to counter McDonalds indoctrinating propaganda and as part of this we've produced a workers' paper called McSues (McNews being the company's rag). Although MWR was originally concentrated at one store in Glasgow, we've made contact with like minded employees, working locally and in England, and hope that McSues will act as a catalyst, encouraging more employees to take the step from hating the company, to fighting it.

We see our struggle against McDonalds as being about more than winning ourselves a slightly higher wage (important though such victories are). Rather, we see direct action which aims to give us some control over our working conditions as an integral part of the long process of collectively regaining sovereignty over our lives.

McDonalds is the epitome of triumphalist capitalism, arrogant and contemptuous of those who oppose it. It may soon be surprised - the workers united are more possible than they can powerfully imagine!

MWR will soon have a PO Box, details from CI, also see www.mcsptlight.org

- McDonalds workers in France are organising in the anarcho syndicalist CNT, CNT-AIT Section McDonalds, 33 Rue Des Vignoles - 75020 Paris, Tel 00 33 1 43720954.
- On 13 August anti McDonalds protesters in Bristol unfurled a banner on the roof of the store and cooked free veggieburgers for passers-by.
- Hinchley Wood residents in Surrey claimed victory over McDonalds after the multinational sold back a lease bought from the local pub. A squatters camp lasting 552 days persuaded McDonalds that replacing the local pub with their nasty burgers was not popular.

GET INVOLVED !

• **Global Action Scotland**, POB 3811, Glasgow, G42 8ZU globalactionscotland@egroups.com Tel 07932 543074 • **Clydeside anarchist circle** write C[ac] c/o Transmission 28 King St., G1 5QP • **Autonomous Centre/Edin.Claimants/Womens Info Collective** c/o 17 W. Montgomery Pl., Edinburgh EH7 5HA 0131-557-6242 Open tues 12-4pm (with Edin Claimants) & sun 2-6pm www.autonomous.org.uk

For regular news • **Earth First! Action Update**, POB 1TA, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne NE99 1TA, 0797 4791841 <actionupdate@gn.apc.org> • **Resistance** - write AF, PO Box 375, Knaphill, Woking, Surrey GU21 2XL (Anarchist Fed, 07946 214590 www.afed.org.uk) • **SchNEWS**, PO Box 2600, Brighton BN2 2DX 01273-685913 www.schnews.org.uk/

• **5th May group** POB 2474, London, N8 (Turkish/Kurdish @'s) • **56a Infoshop**, 56 Crampton St., London SE17 • **Anarchist Trade Union Network**, BOX EMAB, 88 Abbey Street, Derby, DE22 3SQ, Grp7763aol.com • **Black Flag**, BM Hurricane, London WC1 3XX (@ mag) • **Class War**, PO Box 467, London E8 3QX • **Direct Action**, PO Box 29, SW PDO, Manchester M15 5HW (Solidarity Fed mag) (also Education Worker Network address) • **Federation Anarchiste**, 145 Rue Amelot, 75011 Paris, France • **Haringey Solidarity Group**, Box 2474, London N8, 020 8374 5027 hsg@clara.net • **Industrial Workers of the World**, 75 Humberstone Gate, Leicester LE1 1WB • **Kate Sharpley Library**, BM Hurricane, London WC1 3XX • **Kommunist Kranti**, Majdoor Library, Autopin Jhuggi, Faridabad-121001, India • **Lancaster Anarchist Group**, c/o The Basement, 78A Penny Street, Lancaster • **London Greenpeace**, 5 Caledonian Rd., London N1 • **Movement Against the Monarchy**, POB 14672, London E9 5UQ • **NUM Advice Centre** www.minersadvice.co.uk • **Reclaim the Streets**, PO Box 9656, London N4 4JY, 020 7281 4621 • **S.Herts Sol.Fed** PO Box 493, St. Albans, AL1 5TW • **Umanita Nova**, C.so Palermo 46, 10152, Torino, Italy (@ weekly) • **Distros**: Active BM Active, London WCIN 3XX • **AK** PO Box 12766, Edinburgh EH8 9YE Write for listing, Thanks to Anarchist Graphics, Box 5, 167 Fawcett Rd, Southsea, Hants PO4

• **THE AGITATOR** pamphlet - excellent source for addresses of groups and centres in Britain, Ireland and round the world - £1 + 30p p&p from Haringey Solidarity Group PO Box 2474, London N8.

COUNTER INFORMATION is produced by an independent collective, based in central Scotland, including Glasgow. We aim to assist in the struggle against all injustice, oppression and exploitation. Write for copies to distribute. Send us news. Contact us if you'd like to get involved. Donations needed - cheques to Counter Information.

NEW ADDRESS : Counter Information c/o
17 W. Montgomery Place, Edinburgh EH7 5HA
0131 557 6242(ask for CI) www.autonomous.org.uk CI 55 went to press 5-10-00.

READ ME FIRST

Enclosed is the latest issue of **Counter Information**. We can supply you with additional copies if you want. You can pick them up at Globalaction scotland meetings or by writing or e mailing us. Any donation you can make towards stamps/printing is appreciated but isn't necessary if you lack funds.

If you have any language skills and can help CI with translating the huge volume of magazines etc. received from abroad get in touch with CI by post or e mail.

Glasgow ci e mail jimmcfar@hotmail.com
addresses see page 4 for Edinburgh and Glasgow [ac].

Globalaction scotland is the name for the informal non-herarchical, anti-capitalist network which involved over a thousand people on May 1st and supported the Gartocher residents. Some activists also made it to Prague, a number being arrested. Although they were released 'teapot' from Faslane was arrested for attacking a McDonalds sign before leaving the czech republic and bail money had to be raised before he was released.

Video/Informal Gathering: Sunday 29th October at 8pm the first **monthly VIDEO** event is at **tchainova centre** [rough spelling!] in Otago Lane off Otago St., [street connecting Gibson St. with Gt. Western Rd. at Kelvinbridge] . No Underground after 6pm so get bus 20,66,3 along Gt western rd. or 59 etc to Woodlands Rd/Gibson St.. This is an informal gathering **not** a Meeting. The Videos for this month are about Prague, with edited highlights of the May demo. offee etc. available. mobile emergency no. for the night is 07720681764.

Likely next gatherings Sun 19th Nov and 17th Dec. but confirm beforehand.

monthly planning meeting **Monday 6th November** and 4th Dec. at 7.45pm Kinning Park Complex, 1st floor end room. To discuss actions and make group decisions. this replaces previous weekly meetings.

for online debate register at globalactionscotland website via e mail address, see Get involved page 4 ci. the e group promotes dialogue but does not make decisions. Let us know what you think about how **g.a.s.** is organised and reply using previous tear-off slip if you want mailings from the **gas** - address page 4 ci.

There are other initiatives/activities you can find out about by dropping us a note, turning up to a meeting or gathering or logging on, let's not hibernate!!

other ways you can stay informed - write/log on for *Schnews* weekly freesheet, contact Faslane - anti-trident march coming up. Check out faq web site for anarchist ideas Contact AK [see p4 CI] to get anarchist papers like Direct Action, Organise, Black Flag, Squall, adbusters. Get Resistance monthly newsheet - see p4 under Anarchist Federation. Anti-poiniding/direct action group 07979775443.